



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WEEKLY UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11th, 2008

Environmental & Agriculture Education Cluster

Bill Jimmerson, Dr. Carl Igo, Justin Heupel and I attended the National Ag Ed In-service in Indianapolis last week. The theme for this year's conference was "Recruitment-Development-Retention: Agriculture Education's Future". The program presented was very good, offering numerous ideas in helping states and schools in relation to the teacher shortage.

Among the numerous workshops presented was an update on the National Quality Program Standards pilot program. Five states were selected for this school year to pilot these standards. Montana was initially slated to begin the pilot program of these standards a year from now. I just received word from Nina, our LPS specialist. One of the initial five states will not be able to participate this year, so Montana has been selected to participate in the pilot program this year. More details of this program will be released soon.

While at the conference we were able to meet and do planning work on the summer Update Conference. We believe the program will be exciting, very informational and useful for Ag Teachers. Teachers will be able to immediately apply these topics to the classes and students they teach.

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Business, Management, & Information Systems Cluster

PATHWAY CLARIFICATION FOR 2008-09 PERKINS REPORTING: Each school making application for Perkins funding for the 2008-09 school year will indicate the ONE career field in which they have begun pathway implementation. This will be done by selecting the appropriate check box in the online E-Grant system. Schools may declare more than one implemented pathway, but only ONE per school is required for 2008-09.

FIRST OF THREE ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS will be held on February 20, 2008, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the MSU-Great Falls College of Technology. Courtney Johnsrud, MSU-GF is coordinating and taking RSVPs.

BUSINESS PATHWAYS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

Marilyn Besich, MSU-Great Falls COT
Brian Larson, UM-Missoula COT
Curly Burns, Apprenticeship Education Outreach Specialist
Val Martinez, MSU-Billings COT
Brenda Rudolph, Flathead Valley CC
Linda Cotton, Cascade High School
Sue Cheff, (Tentative) Flathead High School
Eric Swenson, Denton High School
Gary Kidd, Belgrade High School
Erin Townsend, Stockman Bank

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Health Sciences Cluster

I just returned from the National Consortium for Health Sciences Technology Educators Annual Board Meeting and I had the opportunity to visit with nine publishers regarding HSTE curricula. I also met with 15 other state HSTE specialists to brainstorm ways to strengthen our programs. I have lots and lots of materials to share with all of you as soon as I get everything copied and distributed.

NCHSTE just finished testing a national technical skills assessment for health sciences students that I will share with all of you as well. It is 100 multiple choice questions based on the HSTE Foundational standards. The students will receive a certificate, but NCHSTE is still working with industry and post-secondary ed to determine further relevance of the certificate. Currently it assesses their skill attainment, but it is not a "right to work" document. There is a charge for the test. Perkins legislation does require a technical skills assessment and this will meet the HSTE need. The testing center will also send immediate feedback to the student and supply each classroom or school with complete student data for Perkins reporting.

I am also waiting for a DVD on Bio-technology from Eli Lilly Corp. that can be used in your classrooms to introduce bio-tech as a field of study. Eli Lilly showed this new video at NCHSTE this week and offered it free to all schools. It's about 20-25 minutes).

Human Services and Resources Cluster

Just a gentle reminder that student enrollment reports are due by Feb. 11th.

The MT Restaurant Association has a new educational liaison for the Pro-Start program. We are starting discussions about a summer update for culinary arts. No date is set at this time.

Please keep in mind that every high school must choose one "Big Sky Pathway" for the next school year (Aug/Sept. 2008-2009). The Big Sky Pathway must reflect high demand, high wage, or high skill area of employment in your region. Your school may choose to have more than one "Big Sky Pathway."

Suggestions for FCS teachers are:

- Career Cluster Human Services
 - "Big Sky Pathway" Early Childhood Education or Inter-generational Education
- Career Cluster Human Services
 - "Big Sky Pathway" Consumer Services (utilizing the FEFE curriculum)
- Career Cluster Hospitality & Tourism
 - "Big Sky Pathway" Lodging Management or Culinary Arts

Renee Harris

Health Sciences, Human Services and Resources

State Advisor, *HOSA & FCCLA*

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Industrial, Manufacturing & Engineering Systems Cluster

Kevin Brockbank (Helena COT) and I met on February 5 to outline proposed strategies. The meeting was followed by phone conversations with George Burns (OCHE) and Bill Roope (FVCC).

A person has been tentatively hired to represent the eastern part of the state within the Manufacturing Cluster. I will announce who that person is after the contract has been signed.

I will be attending a meeting with George, Bill, Kevin, and the new representative next week. The purpose of the meeting is to bring the new person up to speed and to review current articulation agreements.

The original date of the Wednesday, February 13 meeting has been changed to THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

The Thursday meeting will take place at the Helena COT Airport Campus at 10:00 a.m. Kevin Brockbank has made arrangements for us to have lunch on campus. I will share more information concerning this meeting early next week.

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Industrial, Manufacturing & Engineering Systems

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